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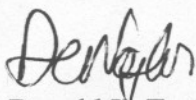
Migratory Game Bird Resolution

The Issue:

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has allowed states the option to modify the Migratory Game Bird Hunting Zone Lines. This refers to the North/South season lines. By FWS rule, the zones are then locked in place for the next five years. The Department of Natural Resources has proposed 2 options to modify the current duck zone boundary. These are found in Department Advisory Question #19. The voting procedure for this question does not allow participants at the spring hearing to express their desire that their county remain in the zone they have been in for the past 10 years. The current zone lines were established in 1996 at the request of duck hunters from northwestern Wisconsin who were experiencing 30 day ducks seasons ending in early November. In recent years duck seasons have been 60 days in length and duck hunting opportunities have generally gone through November. However, the Adaptive Harvest Management program the FWS uses to establish duck season lengths prescribe 30 and 45 day seasons when drought reduces May pond numbers in Prairie Canada and/or the Mid-continent mallard population declines below a specified level. In 2005, we were on the border line between a 60 and a 45 day season. A decrease in the Mid-continent mallard population of only 50,000 birds would have placed us in a 45 day season. Had May pond numbers in Prairie Canada been at 3.5 million instead of 3.9 million and the mallard population been 7 million instead of 7.54 million last year the season would have been 30 days. A fair and proper season tries to accommodate all hunters. Being in the southern zone comes much close to accomplishing that the transferring to the northern zone.

The Resolution:

WHEREAS, many northwestern Wisconsin residents prefer to see the existing Migratory Game Bird Hunting Zone boundary not change;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at it's annual meeting held in Burnett County on April 10, 2006, recommends that Department of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by not changing the current Migratory Game Bird Hunting Zone boundary in northwestern Wisconsin, thereby keeping Burnett County in the Southern Game Bird Hunting Zone.



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County: Burnett

Passed or Failed

County Resolution # _____

County Vote: (by show of hands or written ballot where appropriate)

Yes: _____

No: _____

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